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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GROUP 3600

Applicant: Forbes, et al.

Group No.: 3617

Serial No.: 09/804,045/406

Examiner: Jules, Frantz F.

Filed: 12 March 2001

Date: 24 December 2002

For: DROPPED DECK CENTER BEAM RAILROAD CAR STRUCTURE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)

copy #18

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed with a Request for Continued Examination in this case instead of payment of the base issue fee, so it is believed to be timely under 37 CFR §1.97(b). If this is not correct, please charge Deposit Account 15-0450 for the fee to have the IDS entered.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

One (1) U.S. patent is listed on one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A. A copy of the reference is enclosed.

Further art will be provided in a supplement to this Information Disclosure Statement.

The enclosed reference is a patent that has just recently come to the applicant's attention as a cited reference in a recently issued patent

This Information Disclosure Statement is based on information contained in the undersigned attorney file as of the date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to the undersigned at that date.

5/03

The Examiner is kindly requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statement in addition to any references identified by the Examiner as a result of his independent search and examination.

Respectfully submitted,
HAHN LOESER + PARKS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Grant', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Stephen L. Grant
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Attorney Docket: 115699-32

English language translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**